IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph on page 2, between lines 27-28 of the specification with the following:

~~It is an object of the~~ It is an object of the invention to provide a method and system for automatically determining a reading of a Japanese word.

Replace the paragraph spanning pages 3-4, between page 3, line 23, and page 4, line 4 of the specification with the following:

~~As described in the dependent claim 2, for~~ For a kanji character that in the word is not immediately preceded or succeeded by a kanji character, the method includes choosing a most frequent one of a plurality of kun-readings associated with the kanji character. Some kanji characters may be associated with several different kun-readings. The most frequently occurring one is selected. The several options may all be stored in a memory, possibly with their relative frequency of occurrence (or sorted on frequency). In this way, the method may, optionally, enable a user

to select a different reading. If this is not required, the method may include storing the most frequent kun-reading of each kanji character in a memory for use during the conversion of a Japanese word in a textual form to an acoustical form. Similarly, ~~as described in the dependent claim 3,~~ for a kanji character that in the word is immediately preceded or succeeded by at least one kanji character, the method includes choosing a most frequent one of a plurality of on-readings associated with the kanji character.

Replace the paragraph on page 4, between lines 5-9 of the specification with the following:

~~As described in a preferred embodiment of the dependent claim 4, the~~ The most frequent on-reading ~~is~~ may be selected by also considering the neighboring kanji character(s). For the group of two or more kanji characters the most frequent on-reading is chosen and applied to the characters of the group. In this way, the quality can be improved further than when the decision is made solely based on the frequency of reading of isolated characters.

Replace the paragraph on page 4, between lines 10-11 of the

specification with the following:

As described in the dependent claim 5, each Each hiragana

character is may be associated with one reading and for a hiragana

character of the word the associated reading is chosen.

Replace the paragraph on page 4, between lines 12-14 of the

specification with the following:

As described in the dependent claim 6, each Each katakana

character is may be associated with a corresponding hiragana

character; and for a katakana character of the word choosing the

reading associated with the hiragana character corresponding to the

katakana character.

Replace the paragraph spanning pages 10-11, between page 10,

line 3, and page 11, line 5 of the specification with the

following:

Fig. 4 shows a further table for use by the method. The table

has a separate row for each kanji character supported by the

system. Preferably, all kanji characters are supported, which are

about 6000 6000 different characters. If so desired, the number of

supported kanji characters may be limited, for example to the 500

or 1000 most used characters. A suitable subset is the "Joyo kanji"

list, an official listing of 1,945 kanji characters published in

1981 by the Japanese Ministry of Education. The list comprises all

the kanji one might expect to encounter in "everyday use" - on

signs, in newspapers and so on. In the exemplary table, column 410

identifies the kanji character, for example in a digital form,

using a two-byte representation. Any suitable sequence may be used.

In column 420, a corresponding acoustic transcription is stored for

each of the kanji characters in the form of a representation of the

most frequent on-reading of the character, for example using a

phonetic or other suitable representation. In column 430, a further

corresponding acoustic transcription is stored for each of the

kanji characters in the form of a representation of the most

frequent kun-reading of the character. It is well-known to create

acoustic representations of the different classes of reading of

kanji characters and the choices within each class are well-known

and this will not be described in more detail here. It will be

appreciated that instead of one acoustic representation stored in

each of the columns 420 and 430, the system may include several

acoustic representations for each of the readings, where each sub-column with a different representation corresponds to a regional variation in pronunciation (also referred to as accent). The table shown in Fig.4, in principle, enables finding an acoustic transcription for individual kanji characters. Below, more details will be given on determining a preferred acoustic transcription. Since hiragana (and also katakana) can be used as an acoustic representation ("reading") of a kanji character, columns 420 and 430 may also include one or more hiragana characters that represent the acoustic transcription (or if so desired, the columns may include katakana characters). In this way, the table can also be used for converting individual kanji characters to hiragana (and/or katakana) characters. As such, the combination of tables shown in Figs 3 and 4, enable transcription of Japanese text corpora to hiragana (and/or katakana). For applications, like speech recognition and speech synthesis, it is usually preferred to also have access to an acoustic representation other than hiragana or katakana). For this purpose, column 330 of Fig. 3 and columns 420 and 430 of Fig. 4 can be used. If the purpose is solely to perform a transcription of Japanese text corpora, column 330 is not

required. Instead in columns 420 and 430 the hiragana (or katakana)

transcription can be given as the on-reading and kun-reading,

respectively.